

**S/N 09/435198**

**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant:	Kevin A. Layne	Examiner:	Elaine Gort
Serial No.:	09/435,198	Group Art Unit:	3627
Filed:	November 5, 1999	Docket:	1148.002US1
Title:	COLLECTION AGENCY DATA ACCESS METHOD		

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**DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.131**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

This declaration is submitted under 37 C.F.R. §1.131 prior to any final rejection of U. S. Patent Application Serial Number 09/435,198 to establish invention of the subject matter of the rejected claims prior to December 1, 1998.

I, Kevin A. Layne, do hereby declare:

1. I was employed by Commercial Recovery Corporation from prior to December 1, 1998 until approximately May 1999 as a contractor. In July 1999, I became, and still remain, an employee of Commercial Recovery Corporation.
2. I am the inventor of the inventive subject matter described and shown in the present application.
3. Prior to December 1, 1998, the inventive subject matter that is shown in Figures 1-6, described, and claimed in the corresponding claims of the present application was completed in the United States as evidenced by the following:
  - a. Prior to December 1, 1998, having earlier conceived the subject matter in the United States, I made the notes shown in Exhibit A (6 pages). Exhibit A shows a system and method of allowing selective access by a client of a collection agency to information from debt collection by the collection agency including storing a plurality of account data items associated with an account belonging to the client of the collection agency (Exhibit

A, page 2). Further shown is processing database access requests with a network server from a user process controlled by a remote user. (Exhibit A, pages 1-3). Also shown is processing of credentials to authenticate the remote user as a client representative and processing data access requests in accordance with a defined access scheme such that the client representative can access only data items associated with an account belonging to that client to allow remote review and reporting of the account data items. (Exhibit A, pages 1, 3, 5). Further, Exhibit A shows the remote user requesting collection data over this Internet, the access to the data items being in accordance with a plurality of access tiers, and all elements of the claims in the present application. The dates deleted from Exhibit A are prior to December 1, 1998. (The page number references to Exhibits A are exemplary and not exclusive.)

b. Prior to December 1, 1998, Exhibit B (8 pages) and Exhibit C (1 page) show that Commercial Recovery Corporation acquired equipment and services including a web server and internet access for implementing the inventive subject matter shown, described and claimed in the present application. The dates deleted from Exhibits B and C are prior to December 1, 1998.

c. Prior to December 1, 1998, Commercial Recovery Corporation negotiated and entered into a contract with Total Solutions Group for the development of a system implementing the inventive subject matter of the present invention. Exhibit D (3 pages) shows a Statement of Work for this engagement.

e. These events contributed to the subject matter included in the present application and are included in the system and method that was reduced to practice.

4. I further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true, and further that these statements are made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of this application or any patent issuing thereon.

Date:

10/17/03

  
Kevin A. Layne